



**CASE STUDY**

# Paisley Town Hall

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TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE &  
PRODUCTION TECHNOLOGY  
SUPPLY & INSTALLATION

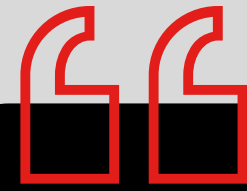
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Once a thriving hub of the town centre, by the mid-2000s, Paisley Town Hall became dilapidated and weighed down by an outdated technical infrastructure, which prevented it from hosting the community centric events Scottish town halls are well known for.

Northern Light, part of the Stage Electrics Group, worked with Renfrewshire Council and Morrison Construction, together with theatre consultants CharcoalBlue, to transform Paisley Town Hall into one of the finest entertainment venues in the West of Scotland. We specified, supplied, and installed production lighting, stage engineering and specialist technical infrastructure systems—improving the capabilities of the venue for years to come.



It was a great privilege to be invited to assist Renfrewshire Council with the redevelopment of Paisley Town Hall.

We have a proud history of renovation work in historic buildings and were excited to bring Paisley Town Hall into the 21st Century with exciting innovations.

Being a grade two listed building meant we had to draw from our experience on similar projects—helping our client and the other contractors navigate the many hurdles and challenges associated with such projects.

**Mike Percy**  
Senior Project Manager  
Stage Electrics/ Northern Light







## THE CHALLENGE

The brief was clear: 'Create a landmark entertainment venue in the West of Scotland, which preserves the beautiful architectural features but adds 21st century facilities, broadening the range of events capable of being hosted at Paisley Town Hall.'

The principal hurdle to overcome on a project like this, is installing a contemporary design within a grade two listed building. Strict regulations and boundaries must be observed, respecting parts of the building which need to remain untouched—with greater scrutiny from building inspectors than on many new builds.

Throughout the project there were various hurdles to overcome in the construction process which were out of our hands. We had to regularly adapt and show true agility to get this project finished on time.





# THE SOLUTION

The first step of the project was for Northern Light's design engineers to further develop and complete the concept provided by CharcoalBlue. Before the work on site commenced, we supplied our client with a fully costed plan and schedule of work, which included over 140 CAD illustrations, covering every stage of the project.

Once the updated design was agreed, we set about installing the technical infrastructure, defined during the design process to satisfy the exact requirements of Paisley Town Hall. We supplied and installed over 36km of specialist AV cables, six AV equipment racks and 86 custom-made facility panels—the location of which was carefully considered to minimise additional cables when plugging up equipment.

Although the lighting systems in the refurbished Paisley Town Hall are all

LED, our client requested 140 through power/dimming circuits, powered by ETC Sensor dimmers, to accommodate touring productions with tungsten lighting fixtures.

Our team also integrated an ETC Paradigm lighting control system into the venue for house lights and work lights, making it easy for staff to control the venue lighting from a single touchscreen device.

We specified, supplied, and installed all production lighting, audio and video equipment for the main auditorium which, thanks to clever work by the architects, increased in capacity from 1000 in the original venue, to 1200 in the refurbished Paisley Town Hall.

An ETC Apex console controls the lighting rig, with fixtures from Chauvet, ETC, High End and Robert Juliat.







An Allen & Heath D-Live S5000 console is at the heart of the audio system, with an L'Acoustics A-Series production loudspeaker system. Radio microphones and assisted listening systems from Sennheiser complete the high-quality audio set-up. The projection installation uses Black Magic for control and distribution, powering Panasonic projectors mounted in the truss. All production cabling is from StageCable, a high-quality brand available exclusively through Stage Electrics and Northern Light.

Stage management desks ensure technical and acting talent alike is cued and communicated with effectively. The custom configured Stage Management Desk, designed and supplied by Stage Electrics during the project was equipped with show relay video displays, intercom, paging capabilities and cue lights enabling Stage Managers at Paisley Town Hall to benefit from up-to-date communication systems.

With a fluid schedule and an ever-changing timeline of work, efficient and intelligent project management was key to Northern Light's involvement in the refurbishment. Mike Percy, our Project Manager, was supported throughout the project by on-site manager, Ross Dagleish, who co-ordinated the site supervisors for each technical discipline. The project management team were assisted by a highly skilled specialist crew of Electricians, Termination Engineers, Commissioning Engineers, and AV Product Specialists.

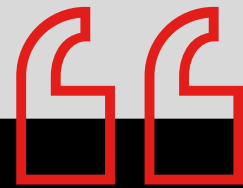
Our team's expertise is not just in technical matters but in ensuring we can use our resources, supplier relationships and experience to assist our clients through both the technical, and non-technical challenges that projects produce. Whether that is dealing with supply chain issues, re-sequencing works or providing solutions to logistical challenges, our team proved to be invaluable in these areas on the Paisley Town Hall project.



## THE RESULT

The redevelopment resulted in a grand, yet highly functional building the people of Paisley can be proud of. The benefits reverberate throughout the community, with regular events and activities specifically for locals, as well as one-off shows and touring productions included in the Town Hall's program.

Northern Light were instrumental in achieving this outcome. More than just a supplier, we applied our experience and expertise throughout the design and construction process. Renfrewshire Council and CharcoalBlue specified the creative objectives and Northern Light applied technical insight, ensuring all expectations were met or exceeded.



Our knowledge of working in historic buildings was key to guiding the Paisley Town Hall project through numerous hurdles and fluid timeframes.

An agile approach to project management enabled us to deploy services when the development was ready for them—even with short notice and tight turnarounds. Construction work in historic buildings has a stop-start nature and contractors need to be flexible.

Seeing the completion of Paisley Town Hall was a moment of great pride for the whole team. We're honoured to have been part of the project.

**Mike Percy**  
Senior Project Manager  
Stage Electrics/ Northern Light





# How Can We Help You?

Stage Electrics provide technical services and products for venues and production companies.

We take care of our clients through the three specialist divisions of Stage Electrics: Projects, Equipment Sales and Venue Services.

## Projects

Our Projects department facilitate a wide range of projects and installations. Our experts will look after all your design, installation and commissioning needs for new-build and refurbishment projects. We work on installations of all scales, from village halls and schools to multi-million-pound projects like the Shakespeare North Playhouse in Prescott or Soho Place in London. Our Projects team are ready to help with as much or as little as you need us to do.

## Equipment Sales

Stage Electrics support thousands of venues and professionals across the UK with their production technology and consumable needs. We stock products by over 100 manufacturers in our Bristol warehouse, many of which are available for same-day dispatch. Our online store is quick and simple to use. If you require personal assistance, our Equipment Sales team would be delighted to provide you with all the help and guidance needed to make a well-informed decision.

## Inspection and Testing

The Stage Electrics Venue Services team will help you maintain a fully functional and legally compliant venue and performance space. We are a NICEIC certified contractor; providing tailored packages for electrical and mechanical inspections as required by BS7671, ISITEE, PUWER and LOLER. Our specialist onsite crew are highly qualified, and DBS checked to enhanced level—the safety and functionality of your venue couldn't be in better hands.

**WE  
MAKE  
PERFORMANCE  
POSSIBLE**





# Let's Talk

If you'd like to learn more about our Projects and Installation services, we'd love to hear from you.

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